

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3 have been amended to better define the claimed invention. New claims 5-20 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. The new claims find solid support in the original specification, e.g., at page 7, lines 3-13, page 9, lines 26-28, page 10, lines 20-28, and page 11, lines 1-28, as well as the original drawings, i.e., Figs. 1-4. The Title has been revised to be more descriptive of the claimed invention. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The objection to the Title is believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

The *35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph* rejection of claim 3 is noted. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the wording "substantially constant" and "increasing length" are vague and render the claim indefinite. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position, because the claim scope is clear and ascertainable to a person of ordinary skill in the art, contrary to the Examiner's allegation.

The *35 U.S.C. 102(b)* rejection of claims 1-4 as being anticipated by *Sagawa* is believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

Sagawa (US Patent 6,379,244) discloses a music action game machine with which "a player can enjoy performing operations in time with music." Column 1, lines 10-12. On top of the cabinet there is a decoration panel 40. Column 10, lines 57-58. Loud speakers 8C are provided at both sides of the decoration panel 40. As disclosed in column 10, lines 55 to 65, these loud speakers are provided above the cabinet so as to "emphasize the existence thereof to the player." That is, the *Sagawa* loud speakers are **not integrated** in the cabinet as the sound generating devices of the invention as claimed in amended claim 1. Thus, *Sagawa* does not disclose transmitting passages extending from the inside to the outside of the cabinet, and is therefore not relevant to the invention as claimed in amended claim 1.

Still with respect to amended claim 1, *Sagawa* does not fairly teach or disclose the claimed sound transmitting holes being **coelevational** with said opening and disposed on left and right sides, respectively, of the opening for the display device. As discussed above, the speakers 8C and the sound transmitting holes (near 7B) of *Sagawa* are disposed above, rather than coelevational with, the display opening 6 (Fig. 2).

Thus, amended claim 1 is patentable over *Sagawa*.

Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1, and are considered patentable at least for the reasons advanced with respect to amended claim 1. The dependent claims are also patentable on their own merits since these claims recite other features of the invention neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art.

For example, as to claim 3, the Examiner has failed to specify with reasonable clarity how the reference teach or disclose the claimed sound transmitting passages each having a **height increasing** as the each of the sound transmitting passages extends towards the respective sound transmitting hole. *See, e.g.,* Office Action at page 4, lines 1-6. Clarification is respectfully requested.

As to claims 5-6, note the above discussion with respect to claim 3.

As to claim 7, *Sagawa* does not appear to fairly teach or suggest the claimed **door** openable for allowing access to the display device and the sound generating devices disposed within said cabinet; and **both the opening for the display device and the sound transmitting holes are formed in said door**.

As to claims 8-9, *Sagawa* does not appear to fairly teach or suggest that said sound generating devices are **entirely** disposed **rearwardly** of the screen of said display device. As can be seen in Fig. 2 of *Sagawa*, speakers 8C are disposed at least partially, if not completely, forward of the screen 6.

As to claim 10, *Sagawa* does not appear to fairly teach or suggest that each of the sound transmitting passages comprises top and bottom walls which are connected by a left side wall and a right side wall; and the left and right side walls are **trapezoidal** in shape.

New independent claim 11 is directed to a gaming machine comprising, among other things, **a door which has a display opening and sound transmitting holes**. Thus, independent claim 11 is patentable over *Sagawa* for at least the reasons advanced with respect to claim 7 which includes a similar limitation.

Claims 12-16 depend from claim 11, and are considered patentable at least for the reasons advanced with respect to claim 11. The dependent claims are also patentable on their own merits since these claims recite other features of the invention neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art.

For example, as to claim 12, note the above discussion with respect to claim 10.

As to claim 16, note the above discussion with respect to claim 8.

New independent claim 17 is directed to a gaming machine comprising, among other things, sound generating devices that are **entirely** disposed **rearwardly** of the screen of said display device. Thus, independent claim 17 is patentable over *Sagawa* for at least the reasons advanced with respect to claim 8 which includes a similar limitation.

Claims 18-20 depend from claim 17, and are considered patentable at least for the reasons advanced with respect to claim 17. The dependent claims are also patentable on their own merits since these claims recite other features of the invention neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art, as discussed, for example, with respect to claim 10.

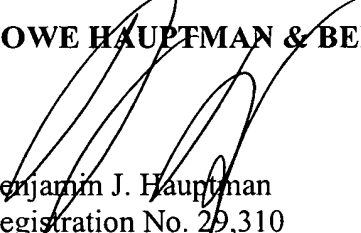
Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed/overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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